

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Rejections

35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103

Examiner has rejected Claims 1 - 18 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Carr and as being unpatentable over Carr in view of other references. Specifically, in responding to Applicants arguments of 09/28/04, Examiner states:

Applicant argues that the stiffness quality of the wire of the current invention is absent from the applied art of record. It is the position of the examiner that element 13 of *Carr inherently has a certain degree of stiffness*, and is intended to have such stiffness quality, *being that it is formed of wire material*. The *lockable function* of the device of Carr is merely an *added benefit that would create much greater resistance to the change of the form* of the device once a desired form is obtained; this added feature does not exclude the inherent stiffness of the wire 13. (emphasis added)

In response to Examiner's comments, Applicant has amended Claim 1 so that it contains the following limitations:

A bendable extension arm, comprising:

- A. a stiffening wire comprising a first end and a second end,
 - B. two wire receptors, wherein one of said two wire receptors is attached to said first end and the other of said two wire receptors is attached to said second end, and
 - C. a sheath covering said stiffening wire, wherein said sheath prevents over bending of said stiffening wire,
- wherein said bendable extension arm's resistance to bending is dependent primarily upon the stiffness of said stiffening wire.* (emphasis added)

Applicant respectfully submits that nearly all things have a "certain degree of stiffness". For example, a wet noodle has a certain degree of stiffness. So does a strand of hair, picture hanging "wire", or a "wire" guitar string. However, not all things have sufficient stiffness such that they could readily be substituted for Applicant's stiffening wire and be the primary cause of the bendable extension arm's resistance to bending.

Applicant's stiffening wire is unique. Only Applicant shows a stiffening wire where the bendable extension arm's resistance to bending is dependent primarily upon the stiffness

of the stiffening wire. In contrast, Carr shows a device where the resistance to bending of his device is dependent entirely or almost entirely upon Carr's locking mechanism.

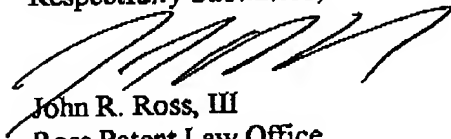
Examiner seems to justify his position that element 13 has a "certain degree of stiffness" because element 13 is formed of wire material. However, it is a mistake to assume that element 13 is the primary reason that Carr's device resists bending. For example, there are many wire devices that are very easy to bend, such as picture hanging wire and wire guitar strings. Also, Carr describes his device as being easy to bend when it is not locked via the locking mechanism. (A description of the utilization of Carr's device is found starting at Column 3, line 62 – Column 4, line 16.) Finally, one only has to look at Carr's FIGS. 4, 5 and 13 and see the very small cross section of element 13 to determine that it is easily bent. Therefore, despite being formed from "wire", element 13 is clearly something that has low stiffness qualities and is very easy to bend.

Conclusion

In Applicant's device, the bendable extension arm's resistance to bending is primarily dependent upon the stiffness of Applicant's stiffening wire. In contrast, in Carr's device the resistance to bending is dependent entirely or almost entirely upon Carr's locking mechanism. Therefore, Claim 1, dependent Claims 2 – 17, and Claim 19 as presently amended should now be allowable.

Thus, for all the reasons given above, this application, as the claims are presently limited, defines a novel, patentable, and truly valuable invention. Hence allowance of all outstanding claims in this application is respectfully submitted to be proper and is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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